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improvement in the material welfare of the people is advanced in the report as an explanation.

The history of one class of diseases, that of acute intestinal diseases, is, however, extremely unfavorable. Its progress is looked upon with alarm. The death rates in cities of 15,000 inhabitants during periods of five years were as follows, per year, per 100,000 inhabitants:

During the five years—	Death rate per 100,000.
1877-1881.....	264.4
1882-1886.....	253.1
1887-1891.....	258.2
1892-1896.....	256.6
1897-1901.....	287.8

Among the acute intestinal diseases are included colic, stomach and intestinal catarrh, and diarrhea. It is especially among children that mortality from these diseases has been increasing, and particularly among sucklings.

The explanation given for this is that women are with each succeeding year participating to a larger extent in industrial life, and in consequence neglecting to bestow the necessary and proper care upon their children. Young children are too frequently irregularly nourished or starved while the mother is laboring in the factory or workshop, while, on the other hand, the common milk used for nourishment often contains impurities, or is prepared by unskilled or careless hands, thus exposing the fragile life of the child as a sacrifice to poverty or ignorance. However, with the rapidly improving methods in the handling of milk one of these evils will undoubtedly lessen from year to year.

HAWAII.

Plague at Hilo.

HONOLULU, *March 7, 1904.*

WYMAN, *Washington:*

There was a death from plague, Hilo, March 4.

COFER.

INDIA.

Report from Calcutta—Fumigation of vessels to destroy vermin.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Sprague, at Calcutta, reports, February 4 and 11, as follows:

During the week ended January 30, 1904, 1 bill of health was issued to the steamship *Queen Olga*, bound for Philadelphia, with a total crew of 30, all Europeans. Rat guards were kept on her wharf line during her stay at dock and the cargo compartments were fumigated for the destruction of vermin.

During the week ended February 6, 1904, bill of health was issued to the steamship *Queen Eleanor*, bound for Boston with a total crew of 31, all Europeans. Rat guards were maintained on the wharf lines, and the holds were fumigated for destruction of vermin.